

ABSTRACT

A navigation system for a vehicle for providing improved notification of upcoming turns along a given route is disclosed. Such turn notifications preferably involve activating turn signal indicators within or external to the vehicle in response to turn notification signals supplied by the navigation system. Such preexisting turn signal indicators include the dedicated turn signal indicators normally present within or on the vehicle, such as the turn signal indicators on the instrument cluster on the vehicle's dashboard; the external turn signal lights typically proximate the front and rear bumpers of the vehicle; the turn signal indicators integrated with the side mirror, or similar indicators. Because preexisting turn signal indicators are used, turn notification is made simpler and more economical as additional indicators or indicator systems are not necessary. Moreover, using indicators interior and exterior to the vehicle benefits both the vehicle occupant and well as other vehicles in the vicinity of the occupant's vehicle to inform of the occupant's intended route. In addition to using preexisting dedicated turn signal indicators, a heads up display can be used to display the turn notification, which is beneficial because it is substantially within the occupant's line of sight.